

members of an absolutely polygamous society mate with the females of an absolutely monogamous society, the new generation display a greater energy." In passing it may be noted that Dr. Unwin shows no tolerance for celibacy; indeed, he instances the exclusion by the Normans of Anglo-Saxons from religious houses as the explanation for the thirteenth-century decline in the quality of the Norman stock.

The untenability, on biological grounds, of the author's Freudian view is best seen in his attribution of the short flowering of culture among the Moors in Spain to the energy created in successive generations by the marriage of polygamous males with women born in a strictly monogamous group. Energy generated in the mothers by unsatisfied *libido* is held to confer social energy on the sons. In his argument the author rejects evolution and natural selection; biologists would take them into account. Dr. Unwin himself lays great stress on the fact that all progressive cultures have been aristocracies and, indeed, for the most part, monarchies. He says that the trend in any society depends on the few, not on the many, and maintains that the "lower classes" in any community are never far removed from the Zooistic or, at best, the Manistic cultural level.

The various marriage systems which he describes appear to be so many variants of selection; and biologists recognize the fact that social selection tends to replace natural selection in advancing societies. Although it has not been widely noted, there is some evidence for the evolutionary value of monogamy and the stable family. It occurs notably in many of the higher forms of animal life. It is the pivotal point in social structure in all those societies which exhibit and have exhibited an intensive accumulation of outstanding human quality. Dr. Unwin's social energy embraces a variety of such faculties as intelligence, courage, imagination, and indeed all the higher human powers.

The family segregates heritable qualities into convenient packets for selection. In an aristocracy, after a number of generations of

selective mating, assortative mating within the higher grade gives just the biological conditions for a rapid advance of social energy. On biological grounds, it may be suggested that it is just those factors which Dr. Unwin rejects or ignores that are required for a true explanation of the observations he has made with such lucidity and erudition.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Gesell, Arnold, Ph.D., M.D., Sc.D., and Thompson, Helen, Ph.D., assisted by **Strunk, Amatruda Catherine, M.D.** *Infant Behaviour: Its Genesis and Growth.* London, 1934. McGraw-Hill Publishing Company Ltd. Pp. 343. Price 18s.

THE investigations of Gesell and his co-workers into infant behaviour represent the most reliable data at present available in this important field of genetic psychology. The establishment of norms of development has been the subject of study in the Yale Clinic under Gesell's direction since 1919. This book gives the results of work which began in 1927, and involved a study of 107 different infants, representing as far as could be determined a normal and homogeneous group. The period considered was from the fourth to the fifty-sixth week of life. Professor Gesell points out that the wealth and complexity of the behaviour of the infant concerned was beyond human description; he therefore used also the cinema, and in a separate atlas has made available typical specimens of the children's activity thus recorded. It is possible, however, without the atlas to learn from the present work what were the main findings in the numerous situations studied. These, contained in Chapter III, comprise the bulk of the text.

In succeeding chapters, the ontogenetic patterning of behaviour is considered, and the rôle of maturation in mental growth. The authors here deal with the hereditary aspect of the problem and, eschewing older formal and newer purely environmental

modes of approach, consider the interaction between genetic and external influences in shaping the pattern of development. "Mental growth (or development), therefore, is a progressive differentiation and integration of the action systems and behaviour patterns of the total organism. Without implying any dualism, it is suggested that mental growth, like physical growth is a process of morphological organization. . . . Environmental factors support, inflect and modify, but do not generate the processes of development. Growth as an impulsion and as a cycle of events is uniquely a character of the living organism and neither physical nor social environment contains any architectonic arrangements even analogous to the mechanism of growth."

In the last chapter the principles of developmental diagnosis are outlined and its present limitations and medical aspects discussed. Throughout the work the authors keep close to their data of observation and present their views and findings clearly.

A. J. LEWIS.

CONTRACEPTION

Denham, Dr. Mary. *Planned Parenthood: A Guide to Birth Control.* London, 1935. George Newnes. Pp. 136. Price 3s. 6d.

Griffith, Edward F., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. *Modern Marriage and Birth Control.* London, 1935. Victor Gollancz. Pp. 221. Price 5s.

Bromley, Dorothy Dunbar. *Birth Control; Its use and misuse.* New York, 1934. Harper and Brothers. Pp. 304. Price 10s. 6d.

Books on birth-control published to-day have to submit to a scrutiny from which their predecessors were immune. For one thing, there are so many of them, and they come at such a pace, that each newcomer is examined critically, often with hostility, for its claims to add to the existing congestion. The critics, too, are so much better equipped than

formerly. The practical data accumulated in the past fifteen years in birth-control clinics, and recorded in clinic reports and in the reports of the International Medical Group for the Investigation of Birth Control, have become the stock-in-trade of hundreds of medical practitioners throughout the country, many of whom can bring to bear upon any new work on birth-control a criticism based on established knowledge and often on an extensive personal experience. The production of birth-control books becomes easier each year: what is becoming increasingly difficult is to produce birth-control books with the slightest claim to originality.

That it can be done is proved by the three books under review. The first deals almost exclusively with the technique of contraception, the second with contraception as one among many of the problems of marriage, the third with—but such is its originality that it is difficult to say in a phrase what the third deals with: yet, though they differ thus from each other in their purpose and scope, they are alike in deserving a place in any representative library of contraception.

"Dr. Mary Denham" is a pseudonym, but to save the reviewer trouble the publishers kindly tell him whose identity the pseudonym conceals. Without betraying their confidence, it may be revealed that Dr. Denham is a recognized authority on the subject, with a clinic experience that is probably second to no one's in this country. She writes with commendable lucidity, and sets out her instruction systematically and with a lively appreciation of the difficulties of the general reader. There is very little fresh in the book, but that is not the fault of the author: there is very little fresh to say. What Mary Denham does supremely well is to present familiar facts in their proper perspective; and it may be added that she makes no major statement to which experts in the subject could take exception.

Dr. Griffith casts his net much wider. His aim is to instruct young people in every aspect of marriage, in the anatomical, physiological, psychological and spiritual truths that underlie its problems: nothing less than that!